

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are all the claims pending in the application.

The specification is objected to because the abstract of the disclosure exceeds 150 words.
Applicant herein amends the abstract to make it no more than 150 words.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Takikita (US 6,252,524). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection with the following comments.

Applicant submits that Takikita fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claims. In particular, Takikita does not disclose the claimed decision means of claim 1. Recited in claim 1 is a decision means for making decision on the basis of the detected vehicle speed and the measured reception field intensity as to a location within the communication coverage area where electronic toll collection information communication can be started while sustaining favorable reception field intensity at the detected vehicle speed, to thereby allow the communication means to perform communication processing on the basis of the result of the decision. The Examiner asserts that Takikita discloses these limitations of the claim at col. 5, lines 15-22, but Applicant disagrees.

The cited portion of the reference states the following:

Here, the "toll collection communication zone" is defined as the zone in which the radio wave detector portion 5 detects the strength of the radio signal from the road-side machine, confirms that the strength of the radio signal is sufficient for communication of toll collection data by the communication control portion 6 and the road-side machine, and determines that data communication with the road-side machine is possible.

Applicant submits that Takikita fails to disclose a decision means for making decision ...
as to a location within the communication coverage area where electronic toll collection

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information communication can be started. Neither the cited portion of the reference, nor the remainder of the reference discloses such a decision means. Instead, the cited excerpt discloses detecting the strength of a radio signal, confirming that the strength of the radio signal is sufficient for communication of toll collection data, and determining that data communication with a road-side machine is possible. This disclosure is silent regarding a location within the communication coverage area where electronic toll collection information communication can be started. The location related to toll collection in the reference is only limited to the entire “toll collection communication zone.” Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Takikita.

Furthermore, claims 2-7 are not anticipated by Takikita due to their dependence from claim 1.

With further regard to dependent claims 2-7, Applicant has the following comments.

Applicant submits that Takikita does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 2. As recited in claim 2, the decision means is so designed as to sample distance data ... to thereby generate distance-versus-reception field intensity data. The Examiner asserts that it is clear that the reference discloses generating distance-versus-reception field intensity data, but Applicant disagrees. Takikita discloses a toll collection communication zone in which communication related to collecting tolls occurs and detecting and confirming the strength of a radio signal prior to the toll collection communication. However, knowing the length of the toll collection communication zone and whether a signal strength is sufficient for communication does not correspond to generating distance-versus-reception field intensity data. Also, the reference simply fails to disclose sampling distance data. Hence, claim 2 and claims 3-5 which depend from claim 2 are not anticipated by Takikita for these additional reasons.

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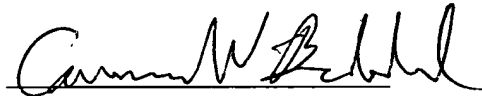
With further regard to claim 6, Applicant submits that Takikita does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claim. An image display means is recited in claim 6 for displaying the electronic toll collection information exchanged through the communication means as an image while stopping display of the electronic toll collection information in dependence on a vehicle speed signal outputted from the vehicle speed detecting means. The Examiner points to an excerpt of the reference, which discloses “a display portion 42 for displaying the position of the automobile mounted with the navigation system 40 on a map is disposed in the navigation system 40.” Col. 5, lines 35-38. However, the cited excerpt fails to disclose or suggest stopping display of the electronic toll collection information in dependence on a vehicle speed signal outputted from the vehicle speed detecting means. Furthermore, the remainder of the reference fails to disclose this feature. Thus, claim 6 is not anticipated by Takikita for this further reason.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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